

June 8 - 10, 2005

PHYTOSANITARY ISSUES

Fresh Apples from the United States – AIT Export Issue

TECRO and AIT exchanged their perspectives regarding the 2004-2005 apple season. AIT expressed concern regarding the time it took to reinstate the program after suspension of import of US apples. TECRO emphasized that it took time to complete every step in the process for reinstatement and will develop a standard operation procedure regarding the procedures for the reinstatement. TECRO reported the observations made during its March 2005 site visit. TECRO recognized the work plan requirements were being adhered to, but stressed the need for better training of packinghouse personnel and appropriate implementation of the modified work plan.

AIT raised the concept of fumigation. TECRO emphasized that fumigation option for grower lots or shipments shall only be allowed prior to shipment of apples. Fumigation is not an option if there is non-compliance with the work plan. TECRO also reiterated that any fumigation facility participating in the program needs to be approved by AIT and could be audited by TECRO in the annual visit. TECRO requested, and AIT agreed to provide, a list of the approved fumigation facilities. AIT will provide TECRO with a modified work plan clarifying the fumigation alternatives for fruit prior to export. TECRO stated that fumigation shall not be allowed in Taiwan. AIT raised the concept that should a codling moth be intercepted in Taiwan, future shipments of that grower lot could be exported if fumigated prior to export. TECRO agreed to discuss fumigation issue further.

AIT also raised the concept of regionalization in that California and the Pacific North West would be recognized as separate regions. AIT will provide the technical justification for the regionalization concept. TECRO will work with AIT on regionalization. TECRO stressed concern about the scientific definition of “region” and the regulated measures for movement of apples between regions once a region is suspended from program.

AIT requested that following TECRO’s review of these documents, the two sides meet to consider the outstanding fumigation and regionalization issues. TECRO raised that AIT’s proposal will be reviewed and responded. TECRO will meet to discuss this proposal upon request by AIT. TECRO still stressed that enforcement of the current work plan should be prioritized.

Western Flower Thrips (WFT) – TECRO Import Issue

TECRO reiterated great concern regarding the issue, and provided AIT with the interception records of WFT from U.S. products. TECRO noted AIT's efforts in reducing the interception rate of WFT, but stated that the interception rate is still too high.

AIT updated TECRO on research involving post harvest treatments. In addition, AIT will determine whether other near term mitigation measures are available, and will provide any information to TECRO.

TECRO stated that it is in the process of drafting import requirements for WFT hosts, and requested that AIT provide information on additional near term mitigations by the end of July 2005.

Montana (MT) Tablestock and Seed Potatoes – AIT Export Issue

TECRO has initiated a PRA for MT tablestock and seed potatoes, and provided AIT with a revised pest list for US potatoes. TECRO requested AIT to provide pest list of MT potatoes. AIT agreed to provide. TECRO noted that the information will help expedite the PRA.

Colorado (CO) Tablestock Potatoes – AIT Export Issue

AIT will provide TECRO with a pest list for CO potatoes to support TECRO's development of a PRA.

AIT Emergency Action Notification (EAN) – TECRO Export Issue

TECRO expressed concern about the delayed receipt of notifications of non compliance. AIT will continue to work with other US agency counterparts to expedite the completion and forwarding of EAN's.

U.S. Origin Potatoes with Peeps – AIT Export Issue

TECRO noted that interceptions of potatoes with sprouts occurred but with relatively low occurrence. TECRO expressed concern about the efficacy of sprout inhibitor. AIT agreed to provide TECRO with information regarding the procedure for applying, and the efficacy of, sprout inhibitor. In addition, AIT will provide TECRO with language for a standard for peep size. TECRO will respond to the issue of peep vs. sprout.

Fresh Citrus Exports to the United States - TECRO Export Issues

TECRO is frustrated about the delay of the completion of the citrus PRA. AIT will provide TECRO with an estimated date of completion for the PRA. TECRO asked AIT to prioritize the PRA for citrus.

Fresh Longan Exports to the United States – TECRO Export Issue

AIT provided the draft PRA on longans, and will forward a version electronically. AIT requested TECRO's comments on the PRA and suggested mitigation measures. Once AIT receives the comments, AIT will proceed with rulemaking. TECRO requested that the draft PRA can be finalized by the end of the year and that the rule making process be completed as soon as possible.

Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) Quarantine Requirements – AIT Export Issue

AIT reiterated its concern regarding the inclusion of the entire states of New York, New Jersey, and Illinois as pest areas of ALB. In order to address this issue, AIT will provide a geographic designation of the quarantine areas, e.g., city, county, borough, and 3 years of ALB survey data of the three states.

TECRO will review the provided information.

Precooling Records for cold treatment of litchi and carambola—TECRO Export Issue

AIT will provide TECRO relevant information.